

The big 50 beckons

Author: Cherice Smith

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The USB commemorates its 50th anniversary in 2014 and asks alumni for their input to help create a clearer picture of the school's history.

In 1964, the USB opened its doors with a class group of 13 part-time MBA students. At the end of 2012, nearly 50 years later, the school has 1153 registered students of which 757 are MBA students. What's more, the USB also has international accreditation from the AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA. "In the 50th year of its existence the USB finds itself as it were on the threshold between yesterday and tomorrow," says Prof John Powell, director of the USB.

The USB wants to involve all its stakeholders in this special time to let the history of the business school live on. This includes students, faculty members, alumni and friends from the private and public sector.

"This is a huge milestone for the business school," says Marietjie Wepener, USB deputy director: Business Development, Marketing and Communications. "Soon we'll be asking alumni to think back to their time at the business school and to send us photos and information about happenings in the classroom (and outside) as well as stories that we want to capture in a publication. The USB would like to get its roughly 16 000 alumni from around the world involved with the business school and its activities because we see alumni as an important part of the USB family."

A special 50-year edition of USB Agenda is planned for the beginning of 2014. Alumni's stories, photos and memorabilia will be used for this and it will also be made available on the USB's website.

What does a former student and lecturer say?

Prof Willie Hamman was a student of the USB's first-ever part-time MBA class from 1964 to 1965. He presented his first class as USB lecturer in 1972 and in 2002, after 30 years here, he retired. But he still has an office in the USB building and he is still involved with students as a supervisor.

His best moments at the USB? "Without a doubt the extra classes (in Business Accounting and Financial Management) I presented on Saturday afternoons. The students who wanted to attend, did so. These classes allowed students to discover what they did wrong during the week. Once or twice I got questions that made me go back to my notes. The questions that came from those classes also allowed me to grow," he says.

According to him the biggest shift that the USB has made during the past almost 50 years is the significant growth in student numbers.

"I wish the USB all the best. Good luck also with the USB's research."

Share your USB memories

The USB would like to ask alumni to send their stories and photos of the past 50 years via email to usb50@usb.ac.za. Alumni whose contact details have changed are requested to send updated details to this address so as not to miss out on USB 50 news. The USB looks forward to hearing from its alumni again!

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